

WORD FROM WYOMING



Calendar of Events

- Town Council Meeting scheduled for April 7th @ 7:30 PM @ the Annex
- Sewer & Water Meeting scheduled for March 11th @ 7:00 PM @ CWSWA
- Planning & Zoning Meeting scheduled for March 11th @ 7:30 PM @ the Annex
- Tuesday Night Bingo at C-W Fire Company @ 7:00 PM.
- **Recycling** Pickup is every Tuesday; **Trash** Pickup is every Friday. Upcoming **Yard Waste** Pickups are, Tuesday, March 11th and Tuesday, March 25th. Upcoming **Bulk Pickups** will be on Friday, March 14th and Friday, March 28th. **Please watch the town website (Wyoming.delaware.gov) for updates on trash pick-ups affected by bad weather.**



TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Mr. Kyle Dixon and Mr. Terry Witt on their successful bids for Council seats at our February 22, 2014 Town Council Election. Mr. Dixon has been elected for his first two year term and Mr. Witt has been re-elected for another two year term. They will both be sworn in at the May 5, 2014 Council Reorganization Meeting. Mayor Rife ran unopposed and will also be sworn in for her three year term in May.

Thank you to Ms. Tracy Greenwood for her interest and time spent in running for Town Council.

Elections in Wyoming couldn't happen without the great people who volunteer for working the poles and sitting on the Board of Elections. Thank you to the following for being wonderful volunteers: Shirley Arnold, Doug Denison, Louise Fair, Ann Keleher, Dave Reed, Erika Reigle and Brenda Vick. We could not do it without you.

GRASS & WEEDS

Please read Ordinance #12-11 An Ordinance Regulating Overgrown Grass and Weeds that is attached to the back of this newsletter. Growing season will be here soon and this is a reminder of the Town's regulations. Any resident allowing growth over 8" will receive a 5 day notice and then the Town will mow and bill you for it as per the ordinance. Only 1 notice is required per season.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Many people are under the assumption that they are not eligible to purchase flood insurance because they do not live in a flood plain. This is not true. Any resident of the Town of Wyoming can purchase flood insurance because in March, 1981 the Town was accepted for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. We have continued participating in that program since then. If your insurance carrier tells you that you cannot purchase flood insurance, find a new insurance carrier because they are wrong. And the cost is reasonable and affordable. Wyoming has only two properties that are actually in a flood plain and they can also purchase flood insurance; it just may cost a little more. Wyoming is currently working on a Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance which we must pass by July in order for the Town to continue to be a part of the program. We are working diligently to get this done.

YARD SALE

Spring is just around the corner (believe it or not) and it is time to start planning for our Spring Yard Sale. We have not set a date yet but it will be in May sometime. If you haven't started cleaning out your attics, closets, basements and garages, now is the time to do so. By next month's Word from Wyoming we will have set a date for the yard sale and we will announce it at that time. Not only will we advertise this in Town, we will advertise it in the Dover Post as well.

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR RIFE

March

March has come in like a **LION** and we can only hope that it will go out like a lamb, and winter of 2014 will be history.

Camden Wyoming Sewer and Water

Camden Wyoming Sewer and Water held a work shop on the Winterberry Woods project that is located 3 miles outside of the Town of Wyoming. The Sewer and Water is being asked to service sewer and water to this new development of 166 homes. Several residents came out in objection to the project. CWSWA will make their final decision at their next meeting on March 11th 2014. Councilwoman Georgette Williams also was in attendance at this meeting.

PARKS

The park bathrooms will reopen at the end of the month, and we will be getting ready for Easter Sun Rise Services on Sunday April 20th.

DON BLAKEY'S SPECIAL MEETING

There was a meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at Stokes Elementary School where Rep. Don Blakey, Sen. Brian Bushweller and several other legislators, Commissioner Jody Sweeny, and Commissioner Terry Pepper both from Levy Court, Caesar Rodney's Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald, acting Mayor Justin King from Camden, and myself answered questions for the great people we serve. Kent County Comptroller and our own Treasurer Georgette William also attended this meeting. It was a good meeting but I was sorry to see that the snow kept a lot of our residents from attending.

Delaware League of Local Governments

The DLLG held their meeting for February on the 28th. Gov. Jack Markell was there to answer question about the \$.10 a gallon tax that he is proposing in

this year's budget. We have asked for our questions to be answered in writing so that you, as residents, can see his answers. As soon as this is given to us we will put it on the website for your viewing. Town Clerk Pam Haddick attended this meeting with me.

PEACH FESTIVAL

The Wyoming peach Festival Committee will be starting up for the 2014 Peach Festival on March 18th. Come out and join the fun.

WYOMING FISHING DERBY

PFC Daniel Creech of the Wyoming Police Department will be hosting the 2014 WYOMING FISHING DERBY. The Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 21st, 2014 at the Wyoming Park. Please put this date on your calendar. The Town of Wyoming is looking forward to this wonderful event again this year. We are proud to have police officers like PFC Creech that take their time to volunteer to work with children in events like this one.

WYOMING ELECTIONS

On May 5th Kyle Dixon and Councilman Terry Witt will be sworn in at the Wyoming Annex to their upcoming two year terms. I am looking forward to working with both of you. Congratulations and thank you for working so hard for the Town of Wyoming.

And as always: Without all of you this town would not be
"The Best little Town in Delaware"

Dale Rife,
Mayor

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PEACH FESTIVAL

The Wyoming Peach Festival Committee will be having its first meeting for the 2014 Festival on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyoming Annex Building. Anyone interested in getting involved with helping out with the Festival is welcome to come. We have some wonderful volunteers that have been working on the Festival for years but they could use more help and would be glad to train anyone to help out. Please come to see what it is all about.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

With Spring coming Wyoming's Code Enforcement Officer will be starting to look around town for code violations. After the winter we have had, I am sure quite a few properties have had some damages to buildings (roofs), trees, fences, sidewalks, etc. Now is the time to start planning your spring fix-up projects. It will probably be the end of March or early April before Mr. Snyder starts his rounds but that time will pass quickly. I am hoping that we will be seeing some warmer weather (without snow) within the next couple of weeks so please take advantage of that and get your yards and buildings cleaned and fixed up. Remember that any major repair such as a new roof does require a building permit so be sure to check in with Town Hall if you are not sure.

WYOMING PARK

The Wyoming Park will be opening up for the Spring by the beginning of April. The pavilion and the bathrooms will be cleaned and opened and the port-a-potty will be removed. Once again we will be reserving the pavilion to parties wishing to reserve it. We charge a \$20.00 fee to reserve the pavilion but anyone is able to use the park and the other picnic areas on a first come, first serve basis even if the pavilion is reserved to someone else. If you are interested in reserving the pavilion, please contact us well in advance of your date. We have already reserved several dates for the upcoming season.

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF WILLEY

Spring time is around the corner. The new officer that was hired with the COPS Grant is currently in the police academy and doing well. February was an interesting month with all the snow; I would like to thank Lew for doing a good job keeping the roads in good shape which reduced the number of accidents in town. I would also like to thank everyone for being extra careful when driving while the conditions were unfavorable. Overall it has been fairly quiet for the police department which is a good thing. Highway Safety will be sponsoring a child restraint and seatbelt enforcement from Saturday (3/8/14) to Sunday (3/16/14). There will be extra officers on the road just to enforce this so make sure everyone is seat belted in and children are properly secured in their child restraints. Statistics show cell phone related crashes rose slightly from 2012 (141 crashes) to 2013 (149 crashes). The breakdown of cell phone related crashes by county is as follows: 62% in New Castle; 22% in Sussex County and 16% in Kent County. Most of the cell phone related crashes tend to be higher on Friday than any other day. I would like to thank everyone who sent in their surveys; I am in the process of reading through them. The information provided will help me address issues which will aid us in better serving the residents of Wyoming. I would like to leave you with this quote from Troy Polamalu: "I've never been a fan of individual awards because football is such a team sport. There're so many things that go into making plays. It's about teammates trusting one another and working together."

Martin O Willey

Chief of Police

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Sponsor: Mayor Dale Rife
First Reading: ___11/7/11___
Second Reading: ___12/5/11___

ORDINANCE #12-11

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING OVERGROWN GRASS AND WEEDS IN THE
TOWN OF WYOMING**

WHEREAS, the Town of Wyoming is authorized under section 27 of its Town Charter to enact ordinances related to the sanitation, beauty, health, and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming finds that overgrown grass and weeds are detrimental to the sanitation, beauty, health, and safety of the public;

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming, a majority thereof concurring in council duly met, that Ordinance #12-11 "An Ordinance Regulating Overgrown Grass and Weeds in the Town of Wyoming" be and hereby is enacted, as follows to wit:

Section 1. Unlawful to allow growth above certain height. It shall be unlawful for any person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation to permit any grass or weeds or other vegetation whatsoever other than edible vegetables, edible fruits, trees and flowers to grow higher than eight (8) inches from the ground on any lot or parcel of ground within the corporate limits of the town, owned by such person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation whether the lot or parcel of ground has or has not erected thereon improvements. Yards shall be kept free from trash and debris that interfere with mowing of the area.

Section 2. Unlawful to allow growth in sidewalks, walkways, other areas. It shall be unlawful for any person, group of persons, firm, association or corporation to permit any grass, weeds or other vegetation whatsoever to grow in any sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas.

Section 3. Abatement of violation by town upon owner's failure; collection of costs. If the owner or responsible party for a lot or parcel of ground permits a violation to occur by failing to maintain said lot or parcel in accordance with the terms of this ordinance, the town shall give five days written notice once each calendar year (January 1 through December 31) that the town shall proceed, without further notice, to abate the violation each time the property is inspected and found to be in violation of this ordinance. The cost thereof, together with any fines and costs, shall constitute claim against the owner or owners of the lot or parcel of ground and may be collected as any other fine or cost is collected.

Section 4. Charge for mowing by town. When the town is required under this ordinance to mow lots or when the town is requested to mow any private property in the town, the following

cost shall be assessed:

- (1) Mowing and/or weed-eating—\$50.00 per hour with a \$50.00 minimum;
- (2) Removal of trash and debris from area (if needed)—\$50.00 per hour with a \$50.00 minimum
- (3) Administrative charge—\$25.00

Section 5. Advertisement. The town shall place a copy of this ordinance in the town newsletter once each calendar year at the beginning of the year. Enforcement will not begin until 15 days after publication of the ordinance.

Section 6. Penalty. Any person or group of persons, firm, association or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a civil violation of this ordinance, and upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined no less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00 and costs. Each day that such violation is maintained shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7. Payment of charges and penalty. The town shall bill the property owner for the charges incurred to abate the ordinance violation, plus the penalty provided for herein. Included with the bill shall be notice of the property owner's right to appeal the Code Enforcement Official's decision and proof of the violation, consisting of a photograph and, when applicable, an approximate measurement of the grass and/or weeds in violation of this article. If not paid when due, the costs for mowing and trimming, plus penalty, will be added to the Town's annual tax bill and as such shall constitute a lien upon the property.

Section 8. Appeals. Any property owner may appeal the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer that the owner's property was in violation of this ordinance by submitting such appeal, in writing, to the Town Council within 10 business days of the date of the bill for the mowing and trimming costs. The Town Council shall review the appeal and take appropriate action by or at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

Synopsis

This ordinance prohibits property owners or other responsible persons from allowing grass, weeds, and other vegetation (not including edible vegetables, edible fruits, trees, and flowers) from growing in excess of eight inches in height. This ordinance prohibits individuals from allowing grass, weeds, and vegetation from growing in spaces or cracks in sidewalks, driveways, and other similar areas. The town must provide 5 days notice prior to taking action to abate a violation, and only one notice is required annually. This ordinance must be published annually in a newspaper in the town, and this ordinance outlines the penalties for violations and the charges for abatement actions taken by the town and allows unpaid penalties and fees to be added to the annual tax bills. Appeals procedures are outlined in this ordinance.

This shall certify that this is a true and correct copy of the ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wyoming at a duly-noticed and convened meeting at which a quorum was present on December 5, 2011.

Attest: Parvula B. Haddick So Certifies: Markus Dale Ruff
Town Clerk Mayor

This shall certify that a copy of this Ordinance was posted at the Town Hall on
12/7, 2011.

12/7/11 So Certifies: Parvula B. Haddick
Date